

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 015277

70

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 H-02 PM-04

DODE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDDDR:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 085513

O 212235Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 015277

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 015277

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

Q. WHAT DO YOU HEAR FROM BEIRUT?

Q. HOW IS MR. KHADDAM MAKING OUT IN HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION. WE NOTE THAT THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVED IN BEIRUT TODAY FOR REPORTED FURTHER MEDIATION EFFORTS. BUT BEYOND THAT I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO GIVE TO YOU.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY UPDATING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION AND THE CLAIMS OF CONSTANT PLA INFILTRATION?

A. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SET EXACT FIGURES ON THE STRENGTH OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON. I SAID YESTERDAY THE REPORTS OF BETWEEN 5,000 AND 15,000 PALESTINIANS ELEMENTS ENTERING LEBANON SEEMED EXAGGERATED.

AND WHILE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE PRECISE, REPORTS THAT  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 015277

A COUPLE OF THOUSAND HAVE ENTERED LEBANON WOULD APPEAR TO BE REASONABLY ACCURATE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A TIME FRAME ON THAT? THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PLA TROOPS IN LEBANON FOR SOME TIME. THESE ARE 2,000 NEW ONES?

A. YES, ELEMENTS THAT HAVE COME IN IN THE PAST COUPLE

OR THREE DAYS.

Q. WHAT ARE THEY DOING? ARE THEY COMBAT?

A. ONCE AGAIN IT IS CONFUSING, OUR INFORMATION IS CONFUSING. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE DISPERSED TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN LEBANON ASSISTING LOCAL ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE FIGHTING.

Q. ARE YOU CONDUCTING ANY ACTIVITIES TO STOP THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON, DIPLOMATIC OR OTHERWISE?

A. I THINK I SAID YESTERDAY WE REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT FAVOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION FROM ANY SOURCE WHATEVER, AND WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY PARTITION OF LEBANON.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ROLE THE SYRIANS ARE TAKING ON THIS? ARE THEY BEING HELPFUL, HARMFUL?

A. I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY. AS I SAID, CERTAIN SYRIAN OFFICIALS ARE IN LEBANON NOW. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON WHAT THEY ARE DOING. I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME.

Q. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THE PLA HAS CROSSED IN SMALL NUMBERS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE DONE IT WITH THE ASSENT OF THE DAMASCUS GOVERNMENT.

A. I REALLY CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION. I JUST REITERATE THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR ABOUT IT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 015277

TO EVERYBODY INVOLVED.

Q. BUT YOU DO CONSIDER THIS AS FOREIGN INTERVENTION AS SUCH?

A. I WOULD RATHER JUST STAY WITH WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. HAVE WE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE DELEGATION WENT TO BEIRUT TO URGE THEM TO SEND ONE, TO URGE THE ASAD GOVERNMENT TO PLAY A MEDIATION ROLE WITH THE WARRING FACTIONS IN LEBANON OR EVEN TO DISCUSS WHAT THE SYRIAN DELEGATION WILL DO IN BEIRUT?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

Q. WE APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO THE WHITE HOUSE, HAVE SENT SEVERAL NOTES TO THE SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS CONCERNING AMERICAN VIEWS. WHAT DO WE SAY BEYOND "WE DON'T WANT YOU TO INTERFERE"? HAVE WE TOLD THE SYRIANS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN AID MIGHT BE ENDANGERED IF THEY BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE IN THE AREA?

A. I CAN'T DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID GENERALLY MAKING OUR VIEWS KNOWN.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE STATUS OF THE AMERICAN AID PROGRAM FOR SYRIA IF THEY WERE TO SEND TROOPS INTO LEBANON OR ACTIVELY PURSUE A PARTITION?

A. THAT IS A WELL-KNOWN HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, AND I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON IT IN ADVANCE.

Q. IS THE RABIN VISIT STILL ON TRACK?

A. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, YES. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO INDICATE ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE SCHEDULE?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 015277

A. I DON'T. I THINK THE WHITE HOUSE PROBABLY WILL HAVE, IF IT DOESN'T HAVE BY NOW.

Q. HOW MANY PLA TROOPS HAVE TO CROSS THE BORDER BEFORE YOU CONSIDER IT FOREIGN INTERVENTION?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO DEFINE THAT FOR YOU. SORRY.

Q. HAS ISRAEL WARNED SYRIA NOT TO INTERFERE IN LEBANON THROUGH THE CHANNEL OF THE UNITED STATES? THERE IS A STORY TO THAT EFFECT IN MA'ARIV TODAY.

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THAT IS SO.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY? HOW MANY OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE THERE, AND DO YOU INTEND TO REDUCE THE NUMBER FURTHER WHEN YOU CAN?

A. WE HAVE THE MATTER UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW, I WOULD NOT RULE OUT FURTHER REDUCTIONS. WE HAVE CURRENTLY SEVENTY AMERICAN EMPLOYEES IN BEIRUT IN THE EMBASSY. THAT IS OFFICERS AND STAFF, SEVENTY AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. THERE ARE

NO DEPENDENTS IN THE FIGURE I HAVE GIVEN YOU, SEVENTY.  
AND THAT FIGURE COMPARES TO 175 EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS  
IN THE EMBASSY LAST SPRING. NOW, AS I SAY, WE HAVE THE  
MATTER UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AS TO WHETHER TO '-

Q. HOW ABOUT PRIVATE AMERICANS?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE FIGURE. I CAN CERTAINLY GET ONE FOR  
YOU. I DON'T HAVE IT HERE.

Q. IS THE AIRPORT STILL CLOSED AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT IS. AND I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT  
LITTLE CAN BE DONE ABOUT POSSIBLE FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN  
THE EMBASSY STAFF UNTIL THE SITUATION IS CALM ENOUGH TO  
ALLOW THE AIRPORT TO BE REOPENED. BUT WE HAVE IT UNDER  
CONSTANT REVIEW, AND WE WOULDN'T RULE OUT FURTHER REDUC-  
TIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 015277

Q. IS THERE ANY CONTINGENCY '- I ASSUME THERE IS A  
CONTINGENCY PLAN '- IS THERE ANY ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BEING  
GIVEN TO MILITARY WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMERICANS IF THE  
SITUATION BECOMES MORE DANGEROUS AND THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO  
LEAVE?

A. I CAN'T REALLY SAY. WE HAVE -- AS EVERY POST DOES '-  
THERE IS A CONTINGENCY PLAN.

Q. I WAS ASKING WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE  
SITUATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

A. I DON'T, NO.

Q. YOU SAY THERE ARE NO DEPENDDNTS. DO YOU MEAN THE  
DEPENDENTS HAVE ALL LEFT OR THERE JUST AREN'T ANY IN THAT  
FIGURE?

A. I MEAN BOTH. THERE AREN'T ANY IN THE FIGURE I GAVE  
YOU. I GAVE YOU A FIGURE OF UT THERE LAST SPRING, WHICH  
WERE EMPLOYEES AND DDPENDENTS.

Q. THE DEPENDENTS OF THE EMPLOYEES, ARE THERE STILL ANY OF  
THEM IN LEBANON?

A. NO, THERE ARE NO DEPENDDNTS.

Q. I'M A BIT UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING IN  
LEBANON TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT THE STABILITY WE OBVIOUSLY

ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE. WHAT KIND OF STEPS IS THE UNITED STATES TAKING TO SLOW THIS FIGHTING AND GET A CEASE-FIRE THAT STICKS?

A. BEYOND THE THINGS THAT I HAVE SAID, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FOR YOU. WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO ALL THE PARTIES ON THE SUBJECT OF INTERVENTION, PARTITION. WE HAVE SUPPORTED LEBANESE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS, END THE FIGHTING. BEYOND THAT I JUST CAN'T GO.

Q. HOW DO WE DO THAT? CONTACT ALL THE PARTIES. FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 015277

EXAMPLE, IN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, DO WE CALL THEM UP, OR DO WE DO IT VIA THE EMBASSY, OR WHAT?

A. I CAN'T ELABORATE THE METHODS FOR YOU.

Q. IS THE PLO CONSIDERED A PARTY IN THIS DISPUTE?

A. I REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU WHETHER THEY ARE ONE OF THE PARTIES CONSIDERED.

Q. SO YOU CAN'T SAY WHETHER WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE -- ARE WE IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO CONCERNING LEBANON?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. SO WE ARE REALLY NOT IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE PARTIES IF WE ARE NOT IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO?

A. IF YOU CONSIDER THE PLO A PARTY.

Q. WELL, IT'S THEIR ARMY DOING THE FIGHTING APPARENTLY.

A. IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

NOTE: FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING THE SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN THAT U.S. POLICY REGARDING CONTACTS WITH PLO REMAINED UNCHANGED, I.E. THERE ARE NO CONTACTS BETWEEN THE USG AND

THE PLO EITHER REGARDING THE LEBANESE SITUATION OR ANY OTHER. SISCO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE015277  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MVANORDDR:RGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760023-0515  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760136/aaaabfxr.tel  
**Line Count:** 325  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, LE, SY, US  
**To:** AMMAN  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006